

DATE: 22 MAR 1963

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RAC No. 036/63

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
22 March 1963**

DAILY REPORT

SUBJECT: US Reconnaissance Activity over Cuba

1. Today's Schedule (22 March 1963)

- a. Missions:** BRASS KNOB 3506 scheduled off at 0504 EST. Estimated time of return 1331 EST.
BRASS KNOB 3507 scheduled off at 0530 EST. Estimated time of return 1321 EST.
- b. Purpose :** Mission 3506 will enter from the western end and generally cover the northern coast. Mission 3507 will enter the western end, cover the western end of the northern coast, then generally cover the southern coast.
- c. Weather :** Good over the eastern tip. Poor over the western half of the north coast. Fair over the remainder of the island. Forecast for tomorrow is generally increasing cloudiness with fair over the eastern third, good over the central part of the island and the south coast of the western third. Poor over the north coast of the western third of the island.
- d. IPIR due:** 24 March 1963.

2. Yesterday's Activity (21 March 1963)

- a. Missions flown :** BRASS KNOB Mission 3504 covered all of Cuba except the eastern and western extremities.
BRASS KNOB 3505 covered the northern coast.
Pilots estimate 95% and 70% coverage of scheduled targets respectively.
- b. Weather :** Fair over the northern half of the western third and good over the remainder of the island.
- c. IPIR due:** 23 March 1963.
- d. Reaction:** No significant air defense reaction to these BRASS KNOB missions was noted.

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3. Shipping Summary

**a. Soviet Bloc ships confirmed en route to Cuba
1600 EST 21 March:**

Tankers	6
Passenger	3
Dry Cargo	14
Total	<u>23</u>

**b. Soviet Bloc ships in Cuban ports 1600 EST
21 March:**

Tankers	3
Passenger	1
Dry Cargo	17
Total	<u>21</u>

**c. Dry cargo ships now in Cuban ports which were
photographed while inbound to Cuba by low-altitude or
surface cameras: 16**

d. CIA has received photos of 15 of these ships.

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The following is the status of "Special Interest" ships in the Cuban trade:

<u>Ship</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
<u>En route to Cuba:</u>		
Baikal	Passenger	ETA Havana 27-29 March. (Estimate)
Mikhail Kalinin	Passenger	Left Kaliningrad on 20 March. ETA Cuba 4-5 April.
Nikolaevsk	Passenger	Passed Danish Straits 19 March. ETA Cuba 1-2 April.
<u>In Cuban ports:</u>		
Krasnograd	Cargo	20 March in Matanzas.
Karachaevo-Cherkassiya	Cargo (Krasnograd class)	20 March in Nuevitas.
Tsimlyanskges	Cargo	Arrived Havana 20 March. 50-70 men seen on deck prior to arrival.
Baltika	Passenger	Arrived Havana 20 March.

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During 14-20 March 1963

Targets	Dates							Totals	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Sorties	Days Covered
1. Siguanea Cruise Missile Site					1	1		2	2
2. Banes Cruise Missile Site	1						1	2	2
3. Santa Cruz del Norte Cruise Site	1	1	1			1		4	4
4. Camilo Cienfuegos Airfield	1	1						2	2
5. Camaguey Airfield			1				1	2	2
6. Holguin Airfield	1				1		1	3	3
7. San Antonio de los Banos Airfield		2	1	2	2	1		8	5
8. Mariel Naval Base		2	2	1	1	1	1	8	6
9. Banes Naval Base	1	1		1	1	2	1	7	6
10. Cienfuegos Naval Base		1				1	1	3	3
11. Santiago de Cuba Port	1				1	1	1	4	4
12. La Isabella Port	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	7
13. Caibarien Port	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	11	7
14. Cardenas Port		1	1		1	1	1	5	5
15. Casilda Port		1	1			1		3	3
16. Matanzas Port	1	1	1		1	1	1	6	6
17. Havana Port	1	2	1		2	1	1	8	6
18. Guantanamo Area	1		1			1	1	4	4
19. Pinar del Rio Military Camp				1		1		2	2
20. Artemisa Military Camp		2		2		1		5	3
21. Holguin Military Camp							1	1	1
22. Remedios Military Camp	2			1	2	1		6	4
23. Santiago de los Vegas Military Camp		2						2	1
24. Lourdes (Torrens) Army Camp		2		1		1		4	3
25. Limonar Military Camp	1	1			1	1		4	4
26. Camaguey Military Camp			1		1		1	3	3
28. Managua Staging Area	1	2	2	2	2	1		10	6
29. Bejucal Staging Area	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	9	7
30. Manicaragua Staging Area								0	0

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During 14-20 March 1963, 94 percent of the total land area of Cuba was covered by photography with 25 percent or less cloud cover. This included oblique photography up to 70 miles on either side of the flight line.

During 14-20 March 1963, 14 BRASS KNOB missions were flown.

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic down-
grading and declassification

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